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Letter No. 2185

October 18, 1984

EMERGENCY IN
CITRUS CANCER
COUNTRY

Sec'y of Agric. John Block declared an extraordinary emergency effective Oct. 17, to provide funds for cost-sharing indemnification to nursery owners in Florida for loss of nursery stock in the citrus canker eradication program. Block said indemnification was needed to eradicate the disease, and to prevent its spread within Florida and to other citrus producing states. USDA indemnity payments will be for losses suffered after Oct. 17. Florida proposed to cover losses prior to that date, since USDA has no authority to make retroactive payments.

USSR FALL
FIELDWORK

The fall fieldwork in the USSR has progressed satisfactorily in preparation for the 1985 crop, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Conditions for the newly seeded fall grains generally are more favorable than in the last several years. As of Oct. 1, winter crops were seeded on 35.9 million hectares (90 million acres), of which 31.2 million (78 million acres) were grain. The planned area for winter grains is about 36 million hectares. The Oct. 1 fall plowing figure was 75 million hectares (188 million acres), or 67 pct. of plan.

LOW SOVIET
HARVEST

The 1984 Soviet grain harvest is estimated at 170 million tons, down 5 million from the Sept. estimate, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report. It includes 75 million tons of wheat--the lowest level of output since the disastrous harvest of 1975--84 million in coarse grains and 11 million in miscellaneous grains and pulses. The wheat estimate was lowered by 3 million tons, and the coarse grains by 2 million. The reduced production estimates are the result of a smaller projected area and slightly lower yield expectations.

SOVIET GRAIN
IMPORTS TO
REACH RECORD

Soviet grain imports are forecast to reach a record 50 million tons in July-June 1984/85, 4 million tons above last month's estimate, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Soviet crop problems this season, particularly with wheat quantity and quality, are likely to result in continued heavy import demand of wheat for milling purposes. The Soviet wheat and coarse grain import estimates were each raised by 2 million tons, reaching 26 million for wheat and 23 million tons for coarse grain.

FIVE STATES
IN NEW CREDIT
PROGRAM

Sec'y of Agric. John Block named five states to participate in the initial phase of a program in which the FmHA will contract with commercial and Farm Credit System lenders for assistance in servicing FmHA farm loans. The program, one of the farm credit initiatives recently announced by President Reagan, will be conducted in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska.

FISCAL '84
AG TRADE

U.S. agricultural exports were \$35.1 billion during Oct.-Aug. of fiscal year 1984, 10 pct. higher than the same period in fiscal 1983, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cumulative export volume through Aug. of fiscal 1984 was 131.1 million tons, down 1 pct. from fiscal 1983's 132.9 million metric tons. U.S. agricultural imports through Aug. were \$17.3 billion, 15 pct. above the 1983 level for the same time period. The resulting trade balance for agricultural products for fiscal 1984 was \$17.8 billion for the first 11 months of fiscal 1984.

GLOBAL
WHEAT
PRODUCTION

Global wheat production in 1984/85 is still forecast at a record 500 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The U.S. forecast for spring wheat was virtually unchanged and total U.S. wheat is expected to increase 6 pct. from last year. Forecast foreign output is about the same as last month. Increases in Australia, Canada, the European Community, the rest of Western Europe and Eastern Europe were offset by decreases in the USSR and Brazil.

COARSE GRAIN--
WORLD OUTPUT

The world coarse grain output in 1984/85 is forecast slightly lower this month, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. U.S. production was lowered slightly, mostly in corn. Total coarse grain output still is 70 pct. above last year, and corn production is up 80 pct. However, for both U.S. corn and sorghum, 3 earlier crops were at least 5 pct. larger than the forecast 1984 crops. Foreign crops are forecast at about month-ago and year-ago levels, despite increased forecasts for both the EC and the rest of Western Europe. The major decrease this month is the USSR forecast, down 2 million tons.

WORLD OILSEED
PRODUCTION

The world oilseed production is forecast at 184.9 million tons, down 1.1 million from last month, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Downward revisions in production in U.S. and Brazilian soybean crop more than offset increases in China's cottonseed and Canada's rapeseed. World soybean output is forecast at 91.8 million tons, 1.9 million below last month. The U.S. soybean crop was reduced by 1.5 million tons to 53.7 million.

OILSEEDS IN
LARGE SUPPLY

Large supplies continue to dominate the world oilseed situation despite a 1.5-million-metric-ton reduction of the 1984 U.S. soybean crop forecast and a slight reduction in Brazilian production for harvest next spring, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These decreases are largely compensated for by an increase in the 1983 U.S. soybean production estimate and increased rapeseed and sunflowerseed production forecasts for W. Europe.

EC AND
SUBSIDIES

For the second week in a row, the European Community has rejected requests for unsubsidized exports of soft wheat, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Authorizations for subsidized soft wheat exports now total 4.1 million tons or about 10 pct. ahead of last year's pace.

MORE
EMERGENCY
LOANS

Sec'y of Agric. John Block named more counties as eligible for Farmers Home Administration emergency loans due to weather. In Minnesota, 1 primary county; 5 contiguous counties; in South Carolina, 1 primary county, 4 contiguous counties; plus two contiguous counties in North Carolina. Farmers have eight months in which to apply for loans.

FROM OUR TELEVISION
SERVICE

"World Food Day - Africa"...USDA attache Christopher Goldthwait focuses on some of the problems of feeding the world's hungry in places such as Africa, including drought, lack of distribution systems, and extreme poverty. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (231)

"Livestock and Poultry Outlook"...USDA economist Leland Southard talks about the current outlook for livestock and poultry, and how this outlook will affect producers. Victor Powell interviews. (232)

"Export Control Bill"...Allan Tracy with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service talks about the Export Administration Act which expired last February, and what this will mean for American agriculture. Victor Powell interviews. (233)

"Rural Electrification Revolving Fund"...Larry Van Mark with USDA's Rural Electrification Administration talks about the impact of recent legislation by Congress concerning the Rural Electrification and Telephone Revolving Fund. Victor Powell interviews. (234)

"U.S. Weather Update"...USDA chief meteorologist Norton Strommen comments on the current weather outlook in the U.S. and what it will mean in terms of crops and the planting season. Jim Johnson interviews. (235)

STATES' FARM
FINANCIAL STATUS
IN 1983

A report on the state-by-state financial ranking of the U.S. farm sector in 1983 will be available by late November, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It's part of a "Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector" series. Other reports in the series are "Costs of Production," "Farm Sector Review," "Income and Balance Sheet Statistics," and "Production and Efficiency Statistics." The series costs \$15, single reports \$5.50. Order from SupDoc, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

COTTON LOAN
RATES, TARGET
PRICE

Sec'y of Agric. John Block announced a base loan rate of 57.3 cents per pound for 1985-crop upland cotton. The loan rate applies to Strict Low Middling 1 and 1/16 inch cotton at average location in the U.S. The 1985 loan rate is 2.3 cents above the 1984 loan rate. Block also announced a loan rate of 85.95 cents per pound for extra long staple cotton. The ELS cotton target price is 103.14 cents, 120 pct. of the extra long staple cotton loan rate.

U.S. TOBACCO
PRICES, 1983

Flu-cured prices in the U.S. declined slightly in 1983, compared with a 7 pct. gain the year earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. With weak demand for lower stalk tobacco, early-season prices averaged below year-earlier levels. The average price for flue-cured tobacco belts moved up in late Aug., Sept., and early Oct. because of stronger demand for upper stalk tobacco, which carries higher support rates. The 1983 price supports for flue-cured were frozen at the 1982 level.

10.8 BILLION
POUNDS OF
MILK

The milk production during Sept. 1984 totaled 10.8 billion pounds, 4 pct. less than Sept. 1983, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Accumulated milk production for the first 9 months of 1984 totaled 104 billion pounds, down 2 pct. from the same period in 1983.

OFF MIKE

Warren Nielson (KFAB, Omaha, NE) has been elected to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, which was founded in 1916 and honors just over 100 people so far. Our Congrats!!...Gary Wulf (KFRM, Salina, KS) had a new experience at the Kansas State Fair, and what an experience! He won first in the combine demolition derby (A first time event at the Kansas Fair) before a sold out crowd of 10,000. Gary's comment, "It's the first time I've bumped into anything with a combine. It shook Dad up, but it was fun"...Kevin Keller is no longer with the Agri Broadcasting Net in Columbus, OH. He moved over to the Ohio Grain & Feed Assn, same city. Mark Davis, who was already on Ed Johnson's network staff, took over Kevin's duties...Dave Koffee (WIRE, Indianapolis, IN) is looking for an assistant in the farm department. If you're interested, send your resume' to Dave at WIRE, P.O. Box 88456, Indianapolis, IN 46208...George Gatley (KBLU/KTTI/W. Ag Nets, Yuma, AZ) popped into the office unexpectedly this week. He was in town with the Cotton Council International and National Cotton Council with a group of international cotton buyers on a two week tour of the U.S. cotton industry...Jack Banks (WCKY, Cincinnati, OH) reports longevity runs in the family, at least with his great grandmother. Jack and 95 other people helped Armenta Rachel Browning Nolan celebrate her 100th birthday, Oct. 10...Al Powell, radio/TV specialist at my old stompin' grounds at Washington State Univ. in Pullman, reports on a new venture he's into with Dale Harrison of the University of Idaho (another old stompin' ground). Al and Dale at Idaho have expanded Al's twice-weekly 800 line news service to a daily regional service that can be accessed by stations in WA, ID, OR, MT, NV and northern CA. Stories will be about a 50-50 mix between the two universities. The number to call is 800-572-5304.

FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1429...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Brenda Curtis has more information on the new plan to help farmers with their debt problems.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1418...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Steel import policy could affect farmers; The Chinese grain agreement; The salinity solution.

CONSUMER TIME #911...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) Coffee and your heart; The baseball bat story (too little too late); Impact of death and divorce; Autumn leaf hazards; Fowl friends.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, Oct. 24, World ag. supply and demand; Fri, Oct. 26, World cocoa situation; Tues, Oct. 30, Crop and weather update; Wed, Oct. 31, Ag. prices, vegetable outlook. Dial the USDA National News Lines 202/488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EDT each working day.



JAMES L. JOHNSON
Chief, Radio and Television Division